

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02

ACDA-05 SP-02 EB-07 L-03 AID-05 DODE-00 /046 W

----- 127106

R 160725Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5668

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6257

E.O. 11652:XGDS-2 SIS

TAGS: EAID, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF M38A1C W/OR 106 TO BAHRAIN

REF: STATE 217946; MANAMA 1061

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY IN REFTTEL, BY END OCT, JAF WILL HAVE 76 TOW LAUNCHERS (1/248 MISSILES) AND 10 DRAGON TRACKERS (100 MSLS) DELIVERED IN-COUNTRY. WITHIN NEXT YEAR THE TOTAL DELIVERED INVENTORY WILL BE 174 TOW LAUNCHERS (2,068 MSLS) AND 76 DRAGON TRACKERS (740 MSLS). THIS WPNRY WILL IN LARGE MEASURE REPLACE 106 RR IN -COUNTRY, AND IT IS ONLY ON A REPLACEMENT BASIS THAT JAF CAN ACCOMMODATE THIS NEW WPNRY W/O INCREASING PERSONNEL STRENGTHS.

2. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THIS PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FMS ACQUIRED 106 RR AND M38A1C VEHICLES WILL BE ONE OF SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR TRANSFER. BAHRAIN IS A LIKELY CANDIDATE BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP (WHICH USG FAVORS) OF JORDAN AND JAF WITH THE RULER AND MILITARY IN BAHRAIN. IN ADDITION BAHRAIN APPARENTLY HAS THE NEED FOR THE ITEMS AND THE ABILITY TO PAY FOR WPNRY IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. JAF PERSONNEL HAVE STATED THAT THEY WERE APPROACHED BY BAHRAINIS ON THIS SUBJECT; HOWEVER, DETAILS ARE NOT KNOWN.

3. UNLESS USG WILLING TO BUY U.S. HARDWARE PURCHASED UNDER FMS, RECOMMEND THAT ALL REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE BE
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HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY, ASSUMING WE APPROVE OF RECEIPT, IN

ORDER TO ENCOURAGE JAF TO REPLACE WPNRY RATHER THAN MERELY
ADD-ON, WHICH WOULD CREATE PRESSURES ON INCREASING SIZE OF
JAF AND ADD TO ECONOMIC BURDEN OF SUPPORTING JORDANIAN
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.
PICKERING

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NNN

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